

Beach Scavenger Hunt



Are you ready to explore the beach? Using the checklist below, take a walk along a bayshore beach and observe the many natural treasures that contribute to the unique marine ecosystem found in and around Delaware Bay.

Materials:

Trash Bag

Pencil or Pen

*If you do not have something to write with, find a small stick and poke a hole through the checklist square as you find each item.

Scavenger Hunt Checklist

☐ 1 Piece of a Crab Shell

You may find many pieces of horseshoe crabs along the beach but, it is important to remember that these animals are not actually crabs! Be sure to be on the lookout for blue crab shells as you explore.



☐ 1 Piece of a Horseshoe Crab Shell

Did you know?

The blue blood of the horseshoe crab is used to prevent itself from getting infections. The blue blood will clot around bacteria to prevent it from harming the animal.



☐ Exactly 15 of something

What 15 items did you find? _____

☐ Something You Like

What did you find? _____

☐ A Piece of Seaweed



☐ **Something Clinging to a Rock**

Common crustaceans that you might find are barnacles. These organisms secrete a glue-like substance to attach themselves to hard surfaces.



☐ **Scallop Shell**

Did you know?

Bay Scallops have 30-40 blue-green eyes located along the edge of their shell. These eyes help them to see when a predator is coming.



☐ **5 Pieces of Litter**

Place the litter you found in the trash bag you brought and be sure to carry it out when you are finished with the scavenger hunt.

☐ **Critter with 6 or more Legs**

Did you know?

A Mantis Shrimp has three pairs of walking legs, four pairs of clawed appendages and one pair of long, jackknife claws that resemble a praying mantis.



Example: Mantis Shrimp

☐ **2 Kinds of Snail Shells**



Example: Atlantic Slipper Snail



Example: Knobbed Whelk

☐ **Feel Something Cold**

What did you feel that is cold? _____

☐ **Mussel Shell**



Example: Atlantic Ribbed Mussel

☐ **Bird Feather or Footprint**

Did you know?

The Delaware Bay beaches provide ideal foraging opportunities for many species of shorebirds during spring migration.



Example: American Oystercatcher

☐ **Mermaid's Purse
(skate egg case)**

Did you know?

Skates lay their egg casings on the sea floor attached to a hard object. Also known as a mermaid's purse, it is common to see these casings washed up on the shoreline.



☐ **A Shell with 3 or More Colors**



Example: Atlantic Moon Snail

☐ **Stop! Sit down and close your eyes. Listen for 30 seconds. Use the space below to write down what you heard.**

☐ 1 Piece of a Sponge



☐ Driftwood

Driftwood is the remains of trees or man-made objects that wash ashore, providing shelter and habitat for many marine species.



☐ Whelk Egg Case



There are 2 common species of whelk in the Delaware Bay, the **Knobbed Whelk**, and the **Channeled Whelk**.



We hope you enjoyed exploring the beach along the Delaware Bay! Observing and studying these aquatic components help us understand how they contribute to the bay's ecosystem and the processes that keep the marine environment balanced.

For more information about the items you found or if you would like more information about the programs and activities offered by the DuPont Nature Center, stop by the nature center or visit our website: <http://de.gov.dnc>

